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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

November 29, 1957

DATE:

SUBJECT: McCloy's Concern for Berlin

PARTICIPANTS: John J. McCloy
Eleanor L. DullesCOPIES TO: S/3 Ambassador David K. E. Bruce, Bonn
G: Mr. R. Murphy Mr. Martin Hillenbrand, Berlin
C: Mr. G. F. Reinhardt
EUR: Mr. C. B. Elbrick
EUR: Mr. J. Reinhardt
EUR: Mr. B. E. L. Timmons

On November 27, John J. McCloy called Eleanor Dulles from New York. He stated that he wished to write the Secretary a letter, although he was somewhat hesitant to bother him, to suggest that Vice President Nixon go to Berlin on the occasion of the trip to NATO which now seemed imminent.

He said that he had been about to write a letter making a similar suggestion with regard to the President when he heard of the President's illness. He added that he wrote the Secretary from time to time and that Foster had asked him to tell him of any ideas he might have.

Mr. McCloy said that he had found considerable uneasiness about the Berlin situation. He regarded Berlin as important not only because of our policy toward the city and toward Germany, but even more in relation to NATO policy in general. He emphasized that he had run into a great deal of discouragement and pessimistic talk about NATO.

In regard to the Berlin visit which he would like to propose, he said that Mayor Brandt and others had indicated that in their view we had not been firm enough with regard to recent harassment of access. There was a dangerous doubt as to our steadfastness in respect to Berlin and that some kind of "show" of determination was needed now. "We need to do more for Berlin than we are doing," he said.

I indicated that I did not know what kind of answer would be given to his suggestion but that I thought it valuable that his views be known here. I said I was sure the Secretary would appreciate a letter from him.

JOHN J. McCLOY
EIGHTEEN PINE STREET
NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

November, 26, 1957

Received
Her

12/5/57 4:29 p.m.

Dear Foster:

I should refrain from any further suggestions as to what happens on the forthcoming visit to Europe but I got a letter from Willy Brandt urging that I do what I could to persuade those who were planning the President's trip to Nato to have him visit Berlin. I hesitated to do this knowing that the pressures on the President would have been very heavy in Paris and a trip to Berlin would only add to his problems, helpful as it might be to the City and the whole concept of Allied strength in Europe.

Now that it is not definitely known whether the President himself will attend, perhaps a visit by Stevenson or Nixon if either are going might be arranged to good effect. I merely pass this on because I do always have Berlin on my mind and it does remain a symbol of Allied determination.

I am enclosing a copy of the translation of Willy Brandt's letter.

Please forgive me for the telegrams I sent you from abroad. I passed suggestions on without too careful consideration of them with the feeling that you and the Department people could do the screening of them far better than I. I had a long talk with Pug Ismay about Nato but I am not going to burden you anymore with suggestions in the trying time you must now be going through. May you keep your strength.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

THE GOVERNING BURGOMASTER
OF BERLIN

Berlin-Schöneberg, November 7, 1959

Ref: REm/BO

Personal.

The Honorable John J. McCloy
President, Chase National Bank
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

If I turn to you personally today, it is because all of us here well remember your keen interest in Berlin and its political task. Our reconstruction work has made good progress in recent years. There are a number of indications however that the East is endeavoring to separate us in a larger measure than heretofore from our citizens in the east sector and in the Soviet occupied zone. Also, hints are thrown out time and again that certain competencies are to be transferred from the Soviet to the Soviet zone authorities.

You know that we do not let anyone upset us very easily. Yet, it would be most desirable in the interest of our common cause, if in the near future the rights and duties our Western friends have assumed here in Berlin could once more be strongly affirmed. This could best be done by the President of the United States, when he attends - as we understand - the NATO summit conference. I have already asked General Hamlett, the commandant in Berlin, to convey our wish in this respect to Washington. We would be well satisfied even with a very brief visit of a few hours only on the part of President Eisenhower.

What I would ask you now is, if you consider it proper, to support this our request at the White House. Perhaps it might be well to mention in this connection that Mr. Khrushchev has repeatedly visited East Berlin since 1955.

I would appreciate it very much if you could assist us in this matter; please remember me to Mrs. McCloy and accept sincere regards from

yours,

s/ Willy Brandt

(Willy Brandt)

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